

## Division of Aging and Adult Services - Budget Cuts Impact Human Services

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The roller coaster 2009 Legislative session left the Division of Aging with its fair share of good news and bad news. The bad news, of course, is truly bad. We are left with a large hole in our Adult Protective Services budget, have lost terrific staff in our Long-term Care Ombudsman program, and are facing the loss of a significant chunk of our overall Administration funding. We are working through the details of how we will implement these cuts. Obviously this is no victory for us.

At the same time, we have a great deal to celebrate. Given the potential damage we faced early in the session, the Division came through relatively well. Despite the loss of APS funding, it was not the full program elimination originally proposed. Likewise, the Ombudsman program, originally targeted for elimination, and with its complications to our federal funding, remains in place despite our losses. Otherwise, program funding to our clients remains solid and we will continue to see vital services provided. Our glass is much more than half full, and we will move forward.

In the end, our losses will be sorely felt, but our infrastructure remains intact and we will prepare for the better years that will come. Our greatest asset remains the terrific people who remain dedicated, focused and committed to the great work they do. I look forward to working together to get past our current challenges and move on to coming opportunities.